The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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SAVE FOOD—
Help Relieve
Famine Abroad

WHOLE NO. 1834 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1946 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 36, NO. 23

Soft Coal Miners Return To Work With Welfare Fund, Pay Increase

Washington, D. C.—Members of the United Mine Workers resumed work in the soft coal fields, satisfied with the almost complete victory they achieved after their long-drawn-out negotiations.

John L. Lewis, president of the UMW, signed the agreement at the White House in the presence of President Truman. Interior Secretary J. A. Krug signed for the Government.

The agreement provided for:

1.—Creation of a health and welfare fund for the miners, financed by a 5-cent-a-ton royalty on coal mined. This fund will be administered by a three-man board. The union will select one member, the operators a second and these two will select the third.

2.—Across-the-board wage increases of $1.85 a day for the miners.

3.—Elimination of the "company doctor" system through union control of the "hospitalization fund," instead of control by the mine operators.

4.—Establishment of safety committees to enforce safety regulations in the mines—a point insisted upon by the union to cut down hazards.

5.—A vacation period from June 29 to July 8, with the vacation pay raised from $75 to $100.

Wage provisions will be retroactive to May 22, when the Government took over the mines.

The pay increase was approved by the Wage Stabilization Board and President Truman gave his endorsement. The Stabilization Board stipulated certain "understandings" to avoid any possible misunderstandings of the agreement. These included:

1.—In event less than a fu[illegible] is worked, the miners shall be paid at the applicable hourly rate for the period worked. This was to avoid any misunderstanding that a miner should be paid for a full day when he worked only part of the day.

2.—Paid holidays referred to in the contract are those recognized in the past in contracts between the union and the operators.

3.—Reference to the vacation period shall leave optional with the mine owner the question of whether the mines are operated during this period. The agreement specifies that if a miner does not get his vacation during the stated period he must receive a vacation at some other time.

Interpretations will be drawn covering vacation payments to miners who have not been employed continuously for a year.

Mine operators were deeply disappointed by the agreement reached between the UMW and Secretary Krug.

Shortly after resumption of operations, owners of the soft coal mines converged on Washington to press demands for a price increase to offset the increased production costs.

Secretary Krug was quoted as predicting a 25-cent-a-ton price boost for consumers.

The settlement agreed upon between the UMW and Mr. Krug is an agreement between the union and the Government. Not until the coal operators have agreed to the terms of the new contract will the mines be released from Government operation.

CROSS SECTION--AFL

No. 8—Tennessee Valley Authority

(Featuring George Googe, AFL Southern representative; David E. Lillienthal, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority; Charles Hines and Benjamin Harper, two key power switchboard experts in the giant generator room at Norris Dam, interviewed at the dam by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator.)

Norris Dam, Tennessee.—The immense value of a smooth working arrangement between management and labor, as evidenced by the pleasant working conditions of TVA and the AFL unions representing the employes, was emphasized by labor and TVA spokesmen in an interview conducted by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator, in a nationwide broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

The successful union-management industrial relations enjoyed between the AFL and TVA management were emphasized by both Googe and Lillienthal.

"All of our AFL unions that built this great project are members of the Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council, and through this council they have written a collective agreement with TVA," Googe explained. "Under this arrangement TVA deals with one central head.

"There not only have been no major strikes—there have been no strikes whatsoever since we've had the contract, and no controversies which have required resort to arbitration machinery. Fact of the matter is that top representation of the AFL hasn't had to take one matter up with the chairman of the board. It's all been handled down the line through collective bargaining."

Lillienthal, pointing out that TVA is not a Government bureau, but was set up by Congress as a corporation, with the flexibility of a private corporation, declared:

"We deliberately chose collective bargaining contracts as the best way to discharge our obligations to build good, workmenlike dams and to provide continuous electrical service. This was a pioneering job. There was no precedent with Federal agencies dealing collectively with labor unions. So we had to enter into a gradual, evolutionary program. In the first stage TVA, in drawing up its labor-responsibility, didn't hand it down as an edict from management. There were conferences, public mass meetings of employes and labor representatives throughout the area.

"Following these mass meetings, there was a joint conference between TVA officials and union representatives that jointly drafted the original TVA industrial relations policy. And then, through the years, it evolved into the signing in 1940 of a fine labor-management collective bargaining contract with the unions and the TVA.

"This was no matter of take-it-or-leave-it. It developed from a meeting of minds over a period of time. In this case, especially, both parties recognize explicitly that the public interest in the TVA is of paramount interest."

Lillienthal pointed out that TVA today serves 5,000,000 people in seven States.

Hines, chief operator of the giant power switchboard, explained its functions, and Harper, a switchboard operator, told of how his union membership had benefitted him. As a member of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, he said, he has found the union extremely helpful in every-day work. He explained, too, that through the union he was able to get the training which qualified him for the job and salary he now enjoys.

Say, Listen!

Forthcoming radio programs in the "Cross Section—AFL" series broadcast each Saturday at 2:45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, over the nation-wide Columbia Broadcasting System, are listed below for the information of trade unionists everywhere so that they can make advance plans to tune in:

June 8—Printing trades. Edward J. Volz, President of the International Photo-Engravers Union and workers engaged in the various printing trades will be interviewed from the composing room of a newspaper in New York City.

June 15—Entertainment Trades. Officials of the various unions representing radio, stage and screen performers and workers, will describe the AFL's far-flung activities in these fields.

June 22—Railway Trades. Charles McGowan, President of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and workers in the various AFL shopcrafts will be interviewed from the railroad shops in Kansas City.

WOLL URGES AFL UNIONS TO HELP RELIEVE FAMINE

Washington, D. C.—A plea urging AFL members to make use of the Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe, otherwise known as CARE, was issued by Matthew Woll, vice president of the AFL, and is being sent to locals throughout the country.

CARE is a non-profit venture through which individuals and organizations may order "standard food packages" for delivery to designated relatives or friends in certain European countries. It was formed to relieve famine abroad. The food packages weigh approximately 30 pounds and provide an average of more than 40,000 calories.

COSTS RISE 50-60% SINCE WAR OUTBREAK

Washington, D. C.—The majority of items which figure in the family budget have increased in cost more than 50 percent since the day the war started in Europe, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Labor economists, however, considered the BLS figures much too conservative, as there is overwhelming evidence, they said, that living costs have risen more than 60 percent.

"Food, clothing and house furnishings costs, which represent 67 percent of the budget for wage earners and moderate income workers in large cities, are now a little over 50 percent higher than in August, 1939," the bureau reported.

Green Demands Truman Veto "Vicious" Case Bill; Senate Kills Labor Draft, Retains Injunction Clause

President's Request For Complete Power Over American Workers Rejected After Bitter Challenge In Senate

Washington, D. C.—The Senate refused to accept President Truman's appeal for the most drastic powers over labor ever sought by the White House, sharply modified his proposal and sent the measure to the House by a 61-to-20 vote.

Stricken from the bill in the form in which it finally was approved by the Senate were President Truman's proposals including:

1. Power to draft into the armed forces within 24 hours of his proclamation of an emergency any individuals necessary to operate Government-seized properties and who refused to work; killed 70 to 13.

2. An entire section of the bill which would permit the Federal Treasury to take profits of seized industries during the period of Government operation.

3. Automatic dismissal and withdrawal of seniority rights of any employe who strikes against the Government. Penalties remaining against individual workers would be temporary withdrawal of Wagner Act guarantees, and possible court action.

4. The bill was clarified to make certain that only employers and union leaders—but not employes generally—would be subject to criminal penalties.

In his appearance before Congress the President had proposed:

1. After Presidential declaration of a "national emergency," the employers or union officials responsible should take "appropriate, affirmative action" to terminate the work stoppage.

2. Resort to court action to compel operation of the projects and to seek damages.

3. Employes failing to return to work would lose Wagner Act protection and seniority rights.

4. Power for the President to draft into the armed forces strikers who refused to return to work.

5. Authority for the President to fix wages and conditions of employment during the period of Government operation.

6. Any profits during Government operation would revert to the Federal Treasury.

The changes, engineered by administration leaders only after it appeared certain the bill would be scrapped in its original form because of its drastic provisions, saved the measure from recommittal by the narrow vote of 42 to 40 toward the end of a 13½-hour session.

The bill was returned to the House where, in a burst of anti-strike hysteria, after President Truman's personal appearance before a joint session of Congress, it had won almost instant approval in the form which he had requested.

With settlement of the railroad and coal strikes, however, the temper of the House appeared to have cooled perceptibly and there were indications that the haste with which it was first approved will not be witnessed again.

A major split in Republican ranks in the Senate, following complete elimination of the section which would have permitted Government seizure of profits of seized properties, spared the administration its worst threat of defeat, the move to recommit.

An amendment by Senator Taft (R.) Ohio to limit the President's seizure powers to such vital industries as utilities, transportation, coal, oil and steel, failed, 45 to 35.

Senator Pepper (D.) Florida, a leading foe of the bill throughout the bitter Senate debate, led a liberal wing fight to strip the bill of virtually everything but its seizure powers; but the Republican group which had helped sink the labor draft deserted almost enmasse. Pepper's move to strike out all of Section 6, removing at one blow the last of the penalties against striking workers themselves, was defeated, 66 to 12.

Other amendments rejected included these:

By Senator Ball (R.) Minnesota to deny the President power to make wage terms with striking workers in seized industries, rejected 52 to 28.

By Senator Capehart (R.) of Indiana to permit the President to set wages up to the limit employers were willing to go, rejected by voice vote.

By Senator Downey (D.) California, empowering the President to call on employers to increase production where needed, with authority to seize plants where this request was rejected, defeated by voice vote.

By Senator Murray (D.) Montana to eliminate authority to enjoin either leaders, their agents or individual workers who strike against the Government, defeated 61 to 19.

ILO Reaches Agreement To Enter UNO Structure

New York City.—The International Labor Organization was well on its way to become the first specialized agency set up under the Charter of the Economic Council of the United Nations under an agreement signed by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, president of the United Nations Social and Economic Council, and Guildhaume Myrddin-Evans, chairman of the governing group of the International Labor Organization.

The agreement was drafted at conferences by committees of the two international bodies that will cement relations of the ILO with the United Nations. It is subject to ratification by the General Assembly.

The text of the draft agreement was released, and it disclosed, as was forecast, that it would not obligate Russia, as a member of the United Nations, to become again a member of the ILO. The Soviet Union belonged to the ILO before her ejection in 1939 from the League of Nations as a result of the Russo-Finnish War.

The agreement makes no change in the membership arrangements of the ILO, except that the ILO agrees to consult with the United Nations on "the desirability of making appropriate arrangements for the inclusion of the budget of the organization within a general budget" of the United Nations. It goes on:

"The United Nations may undertake the collection of contributions from those members of the ILO which are also members of the United Nations in accordance with such arrangements as may be defined by a later agreement between the United Nations and the ILO."

The draft agreement provides for reciprocal representation, for exchange of information and documents and for coordination of the work of ILO with that of the United Nations and its councils and agencies. It will be subject to revision by agreement. The sixty-seven conventions regulating wages and working conditions, certain of which have been ratified by as many as thirty-six or thirty-seven Governments, are unaffected.

Mr. Myrddin-Evans said that the agreement, in one sense, established a much closer relationship with the United Nations than the ILO enjoyed with the League of Nations.

"We have agreed that the Economic and Social Council will be enabled to coordinate our activities with their own activities and the activities of other specialized agencies," he said.

DAIRY WORKERS GET RAISE

Newark, N. J.—An increase of from 23 to 29 cents an hour has been granted to 400 production and delivery workers in 11 North Jersey ice cream plants. The workers are members of Local 680 of the Milk Drivers and Dairy Workers Union (AFL).

TUG OPERATORS GET RAISE

San Francisco, Calif.—The Masters, Mates and Pilots inland division were granted a 48-hour basic work week for tugboat operators. One hundred workers also received a 20 percent wage increase.

COOK TO RETIRE

Washington, D. C.—After 29 years of service with the Federal Government, George A. Cook of the Railway Mediation Board, will retire on July 31. He served as secretary of the board as well as mediator.

PRESIDENT MAY KILL MOVE TO WEAKEN OPA MACHINE

Washington, D. C.—President Truman is reported prepared to veto any measure passed by Congress which would materially weaken that agency's powers.

The President has been advised by close associates that if he takes this step—though it may be a gamble—he "probably" will compel Congress to pass a simple resolution extending the act in its present form for a limited period.

This strategy is attributed to OPA Chief Paul Porter and Stabilization Director Chester Bowles. Both, it is reported, have advised the President that members of Congress, facing reelection this fall, would be unwilling to let OPA die, but at most would fight for some modification of present OPA powers.

Case Measure Is Cited As Danger Sign to American Labor

Washington, D. C.—As it passed Congress, the Case Bill, now in the President's hands, constitutes a dangerous, if not fatal, legal club over organized labor.

The bill's most menacing feature is the one which makes unions liable to be sued for damages in event of strikes involving interstate commerce. In the opinion of the AFL's legal staff, this provision may deluge unions with lawsuits and, unless they take careful precautions, plunder their treasuries.

To the Nation as a whole, the most dangerous provision in the bill is the one which establishes compulsory "cooling-off" periods of 60 to 65 days before a strike can be called.

This section makes permanent a similar provision of the temporary Smith-Connally Act. Experience under that law has proved that these theoretical cooling off periods, in practice, develop into "warming-up" periods.

Under its terms, every union, whether it has any intention of striking or not, must initiate its collective bargaining procedures by serving official notice of intention to strike and taking a strike vote of its members. Otherwise, the union would not be able to protest its legal right to strike.

Thus, negotiations which might otherwise proceed in an orderly and peaceful way, would get started off on the wrong foot.

Other major provisions of the Case Bill include:

1—Creation of a Federal Mediation Board, independent of the Labor Department and with no labor representation, which would attempt to settle disputes during the "cooling-off" periods.

2—Exclusion of supervisory employes from union membership or protection under the National Labor Relations Act.

3—Establishment of fact-finding boards to attempt "compulsory" arbitration through the force of public opinion.

4—A ban on secondary boycotts.

5—A prohibition against exclusive union administration of health and welfare funds.

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments to the Case Bill without insisting on its original draft and marshalled sufficient votes to pass the measure, even over a Presidential veto. In the Senate, however, the lines are more tightly drawn and even one of the bill's foremost supporters, Senator Taft of Ohio, predicted the Senate would refuse to adopt the bill if the President vetoes it.

VETS' HOUSING PROGRAM ALREADY WELL ADVANCED

Washington, D. C.—According to the Federal Public Housing Authority two-thirds of the first 100,000 temporary emergency dwelling units for veterans under the emergency housing program have been completed or are under construction.

In the program to convert war surplus housing, work is about to begin on approximately 30,000 units, 13,500 others have been completed and 53,000 are under construction. About half of the units have been allocated to educational institutions, with the remaining half going to local communities for veterans' use.

UNIONS HOLD WAR GAINS ON MAINTENANCE CLAUSE

Washington, D. C.—Wartime maintenance of membership clauses in labor union contracts are being retained in a majority of cases, the Labor Department reported after a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Of the 224 agreements effective since January 1, 1946, covering 655,000 workers, 40 now have maintenance of membership clauses, of which 32 were retained from previous agreements.

UNION OFFERS COURSE

Louisville, Ky.—A two-week labor school to train 40 men and women for union leadership to begin June 2 at Eastern State College in Richmond, Ky., has been announced by the Kentucky Federation of Labor, the first State American Federation of Labor body to have a department of research and education.

HOUSING BOTTLENECK HIT

Washington, D. C.—Five major veterans' organizations have united in an effort to end the labor bottleneck in housing. They asked Housing Expediter Wilson Wyatt, through their Advisory Council, for an "all-out" community-by-community drive to channel construction labor into house building.

MORE FARM WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—A total of 10,366,000 persons were working on farms in the United States May 1, an increase of 350,000, or about three percent over the number working a year earlier, the Department of Agriculture reported.

Warns Nation Measure Would Kill Free Labor Movement In America; Sees Danger In Pending Legislation

New York City.—AFL President William Green publicly called upon President Truman to veto the obnoxious Case Bill which is designed to destroy the labor movement in America.

In a challenging address to the fifth biennial convention of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union here, the AFL chief warned:

"If the President signs this bill, the seven million members of the American Federation of Labor will be rebels as long as it remains on the statute books of the Nation.

"We will never accept it willingly. We will carry on an unyielding fight to have it repealed.

"We will use our political strength to the utmost to elect members of Congress who will vote to repeal such abhorrent legislation."

Discussing the effects of the Case Bill, Mr. Green declared:

"I do not see how we can function successfully if it becomes law."

Mr. Green delivered these two stinging indictments against specific provisions of the Case Bill:

1—He charged that Congress is making "permanent" its "monumental, temporary mistake" contained in the Smith-Connally Act by providing for compulsory so-called "cooling off" periods which foment strikes instead of preventing them.

2—He alleged that the Case Bill, by authorizing damage suits against labor organizations, proposes to re-enact in America a thousand-fold the oppressive practices which shocked the American people in the Danbury Hatters' case.

In that case, he told the union delegates, members of their own organization had their homes sold out from under them in order to satisfy judgments found against the hat workers in Danbury, Conn.

Employers could harass unions to extinction, if the Case Bill becomes law, by tying them up with litigation and forcing them to spend all their funds and time in defending damage suits, Mr. Green said. Lawyers would have a year-'round "open season" in pressing such damage suits, whether they had any justification or not.

Mr. Green also leveled severe criticism against the provisions of President Truman's emergency strike control bill, but said its effects would be limited because it applied only to cases where the Government had seized industries.

Nevertheless, Mr. Green declared that even with the amendments adopted by the Senate this bill would permit the Attorney General to revive Government by injunction and jail union leaders and strikers. He said the measure was "ill-advised" and unnecessary because the strike emergencies it was intended to cope with have passed.

After reviewing labor's contributions to victory in the war and noting the drop in "take-home" pay after V-J Day, Mr. Green remarked that strikes must be expected in a period of drastic economic changes, although "all of us deplore strikes."

The AFL aims to minimize strikes in favor of conference-table settlements, he said. But, he added, when employers "sit as a negative force in a collective bargaining wage conference and refuse to yield even to the slightest degree, what can the workers do?"

"I think a clear investigation of many of the causes of these strikes will show that the employers who participated in the conferences were as much or more to blame for the strikes than were the workers who participated in the strikes," Mr. Green remarked. "And now as a result of it all we have before Congress some most vicious legislation."

Mayor O'Dwyer, arriving to greet the 160 delegates as Max Zaritsky, president of the union, was expressing views similar to those of Mr. Green, drew prolonged applause by declaring: "Labor insists on holding its gains." The Mayor urged the convention to go on record in favor of extending the Office of Price Administration's life with its present powers and of establishing a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission.

Mr. Zaritsky, whose annual report to the convention calls for continuation of the union's wartime no-strike pledge during the reconversion period, held that an "old and familiar pattern" is evident in current anti-strike and labor-control legislation.

He said that "enemies of the labor movement" wish to destroy organized labor in order to regain special privileges they "enjoyed not so long ago," and have acquired a "powerful and eager ally" in the present Congress.

"In our moment of bewilderment and despair, we instinctively turn our eyes with hope and expectation to the White House," Mr. Zaritsky declared. "We had become accustomed in past years to look to its occupant for guidance, for understanding, for wisdom, for advice and for leadership."

Stressing his belief in Mr. Truman's fundamental friendship toward organized labor, he asked: "Please, Mr. President, get rid of your advisers, at least some of them. They ill-advise and mislead you. They have fallen the victim of the hysteria cooked up by the enemies of democracy."

A message from President Truman to the union—formed 12 years ago with the merger of two old-time, competing AFL unions—was distributed at the opening session. Addressed to Mr. Zaritsky, it read:

"Kindly convey to the delegates to your fifth convention my sincere wishes for a successful meeting. To this first peacetime convention your organization brings a long series of successes in dealing with problems of industrial and human relations, coupled with a record of wholehearted cooperation with our country in her hour of need. I feel sure that with the experience and inspiration drawn from this background you will include with the plans for the future progress and well-being of your members a continuing devotion to the common good during the years to come."

40 Southerners Named To Lead Federation Campaign In Dixie

Atlanta, Ga.—A group of 40 representative leaders of the American Federation of Labor, headed by Southern Representative George L. Googe and all native Southerners, were appointed by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to the Southern Campaign Policy Board, AFL President William Green announced.

The new board met here early this month to map plans to bring 1,000,000 new members into the AFL within a year.

Following are the members of the Southern Campaign Policy Board: Mr. Googe, chairman, Southern representative, AFL; W. O. Hare, Alabama; C. W. Mowery, Arkansas; J. A. Harper, Florida; C. B. Gramling, Georgia; Ed. H. Weyler, Kentucky; E. H. Williams, Louisiana; W. L. Hines, Mississippi; C. A. Fink, North Carolina; Dean Baugh, Oklahoma; Earl R. Britton, South Carolina; John Hand, Tennessee; H. W. Acreman, Texas; I. C. Welsted, Virginia; Volney Andrews, West Virginia; Harry C. Bates, Texas; W. C. Birthright, Tennessee; W. P. Raoul, New York; Curtis Simms, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Arthur Smith, Hamlet, N. C.; Clyde Strickland, Atlanta, Ga.; Roland Adams, Florence, S. C.; Charlie Moore, Richmond, Va.; G. X. Barker, Birmingham, Ala.; Sally Cleinbell, Lynchburg, Va.; John Martin, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Carmen Lucia, Atlanta, Ga.; James Hampton, Sheffield, Ala.; Charlie Lockhart, Miami, Fla.; William Kirch, Birmingham, Ala.; Mike Crowe, Marshall, Texas; Mark Fisher, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Sam Roper, Sheffield, Ala.; T. L. McBrayer, Atlanta, Ga.; Stanton Smith, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Frank Probl, Atlanta, Ga.; Spencer Locke, Orlando, Fla.; George Benjamin, Richmond, Va.; Oscar Bloodworth, Tampa, Fla.; E. M. Brooks, Atlanta, Ga.; Clyde Foster, Miami, Fla.

FRIEDA MILLER APPOINTED

Washington, D. C.—Appointment of Frieda S. Miller of the Women's Bureau, Labor Department, as U. S. representative on the governing body of the International Labor Office at its 98th session in Montreal was announced by President Truman. Miss Miller served as an adviser to this Nation's delegation to the United Nations' General Assembly.

PRINTERS RE-ELECT

Indianapolis.—Present officers of the International Typographical Union (AFL) appear to be assured of reelection on the basis of unofficial returns from more than 900 locals. Woodruff Randolph, president, and the slate of candidates he headed, were reported to be amassing the largest majorities ever recorded in this union.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WRITE OR WIRE
YOUR SENATORS
TO SAVE OPA

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Truman Shake-Up Plan Threat To Labor Dept.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—President Truman's so-called "Reorganization Plan No. 2" for re-grouping Federal agencies was vigorously attacked in a statement by the Executive Council of the AFL.

The Council sharply criticized the proposal which, it declared, would make the Federal Security Agency an executive department and weaken the Labor Department.

"The basic purpose of the agency," the statement of the Council declared, "is conservation and development of the human resources of the Nation, with these principle functions: child care and development, education, health, social insurance, welfare (care of the needy and defective) and recreation."

The Council pointed out that the Federal Security Agency, created in 1939, includes the U. S. Public Health Service, Office of Education, Social Security Board, Federal Advisory Board for Vocational Education, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Food and Drug Administration, Columbia Institute for the Deaf, American Printing House for the Blind, Freedman's Hospital, St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Howard University.

"This reorganization plan transfers to the agency the Children's Bureau from the Labor Department and the Vital Statistical functions of the Census Bureau. It abolishes the U. S. Employes Compensation Commission and transfers its functions to the Federal Security Administrator and creates a three-man appeal board. It abolishes the three-man Social Security Board and transfers its functions to the Federal Security Administrator; the functions of the Office of Education, with respect to the vending stand program also are transferred to the Federal Security Administrator; the Office of Assistant Commissioner of Education is abolished as is the Board for Vocational Education and the Board of Visitors of St. Elizabeth's Hospital and its functions.

"We protest this proposal," the Council declared "as directly and indirectly undermining the Department of Labor. The American Federation of Labor worked many long years to secure legislation authorizing a Labor Department, with its Secretary a member of the Cabinet, in order to have labor representation in this policy-making agency as well as to assure formulation of national labor policy at the highest level. Labor policies lie at the heart of Democratic practices.

"We protest further dismemberment of the Labor Department by the proposed transfer of the Children's Bureau. The AFL helped to establish this Bureau with the understanding that the children's welfare is inseparable from the family welfare.

"Labor insists that the integrity of the programs safeguarding the health, welfare and lives of American mothers and children be preserved within the Children's Bureau and that this agency exclusively retain the powers it now has over such programs, including the power to set standards and their administration.

"Not only should the Children's Bureau be kept in the Labor Department, but old-age and survivors' insurance and unemployment compensation should be transferred to the Labor Department. We take this occasion to urge constructive, substantive legislation to strengthen the Labor Department, authorizing a labor extension service, improving and expanding the Conciliation Service and the health and safety devices of the department and adding social insurance for short and long-term disability."

James B. Burns, president of the American Federation of Government Employes (AFL), expressed emphatic opposition to President Truman's "No. 2 reorganization plan."

"This proposal is unwise, impractical, unsound and will bring the Government no economies," Mr. Burns declared. "The plan would abolish the Employes Compensation Commission and transfer its functions to the Federal Security Agency. We are fully satisfied the Commission is in excellent hands, that the present set-up should be retained and we believe that the proposal for this transfer is illegal in that it cannot be justified under the powers granted to the President for recommendations of Government reorganization."

Soft Coal Contract Hailed As Big Gain

Washington, D. C.—The recent bituminous coal wage agreement between the United Mine Workers (AFL) and the U. S. Government was hailed by the UMW Journal as representing "the greatest economic and social gain registered by the UMW in a single wage agreement since the birth of the union in 1890."

"Time alone," the paper said, "over the long term, can reveal the true beneficial social and economic progress registered. The agreement and understanding reached give promise of promoting a new social order in the coal fields of America. It is the first time that a concrete program has been formulated to give to American coal-mining communities the economic and social parity they so richly deserve—so long overdue.

"The premise has been established for a complete transformation, a down-to-earth safety program that means something more than blueprints, charts, and press releases. The safety plan agreed upon, if carried out and honestly administered, means fewer mangled bodies, fewer widows and orphans, and less human wreckage to feed upon the crumbs of charity.

"It gives the miners for the first time the right to employ doctors of their own choosing, and best of all, gives to miners the right of a say-so in maintaining decent housing and sanitary conditions in coal mining camps. The health and welfare fund, once in operation, should solve many of the human woes and economic ills of the permanently and partially disabled miners and mean much to the widows and orphans left behind."

THREE AFL LOCALS GIVEN RAISE BY METALS FIRM

Philadelphia, Pa.—An announcement has been made of a general 15-cents-an-hour increase for 1,200 production and maintenance employes which became effective on June 3, by the United States gauge division of American Machine and Metals, Inc., Sellersville.

The agreement was favored by three American Federation of Labor locals which have union contracts with the company. On account of changing economic conditions and due to the fact that the existing agreement runs to September 21, "the principals have mutually agreed that the upward adjustment of wages should be made at this time in order to correct inequities" caused by present economic changes, the announcement said.

SCHOOL LUNCH MEASURE IS APPROVED BY TRUMAN

Washington, D. C.—The bill creating a permanent school lunch program has been signed by President Truman. He issued a statement of commendation to Congress on its "great wisdom" in passing this legislation and expressed the hope that "every possible community" would set up school lunches.

Full Randolph Slate Elected By 'Typos'

Indianapolis.—Woodruff Randolph of Chicago, president of the International Typographical Union, and all members of the slate he headed, were swept back into office by the largest majority in the history of the union.

In the presidential race, Randolph polled 41,418 votes to the 16,817 recorded for his opponent, Allen J. Edwards of Miami.

The election was conducted May 15 in each of the union's 865 locals and the ballots were sent to the international headquarters for recount. The membership of the ITU is approximately 85,000.

Other results included:

First vice president, Larry Taylor of Dallas.

Second vice president, Elmer Brown, New York City.

Secretary-treasurer, Don Hurd, Oakland, Calif.

Board of Auditors, Joseph M. Tobin, New York City, one of the three members.

Trustees of the union's home at Colorado Springs: Edward Fitzgerald, Schenectady; Daniel J. McCauley, Philadelphia, and William R. Lucas, Toronto, Ontario.

TRUMAN NAMES VINSON CHIEF JUSTICE OF U. S.

Washington, D. C.—Fred M. Vinson, 56-year-old Treasury Secretary, was appointed Chief Justice of the United States by President Truman. The nomination was a surprise to members of the Senate, but was received with favorable comment.

At the same time the President announced appointment of John W. Snyder of Missouri, 49-year-old reconversion director and a close friend of Mr. Truman for many years, as Treasury Secretary, and John L. Sullivan, 46, of New Hampshire, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air, to be Undersecretary of the Navy.

It was generally conceded the Senate would confirm the nomination of Mr. Vinson quickly.

LABOR UNIONS HELPING VETERANS TO FIND JOBS

Washington, D. C.—The United States Employment Service announced that labor unions are doing a great job in helping to find employment for war veterans. The Service stated that in hundreds of communities, the unions have either launched campaigns on their own to locate jobs for "vets" or have joined with other employer organizations or civic groups to find available employment.

At Salinas, Calif., the Central Labor Union ran newspaper "ads" soliciting jobs for demobilized servicemen.

Padway Confident Supreme Court Will Kill Lea "Anti-Petrillo" Bill

St. Petersburg, Fla.—Members of Congress were charged by Joseph A. Padway, general counsel of the AFL, with placing themselves above the American Constitution, while accusing organized labor of an attempt to place itself above government.

The accusation was hurled by Mr. Padway in an address here before the annual convention of [illegible] American Federation of Musicians. In blunt terms he told the convention he entertained no doubts whatever that the recently enacted Lea Bill was directed solely against James C. Petrillo, president of the musicians, and that the law will be declared unconstitutional on grounds that it is discriminatory legislation, calls for "involuntary servitude" and violates the right to peaceful picketing.

The AFL counsel, who also is attorney for the musicians, will represent Mr. Petrillo in the latter's challenge to the new law, popularly known as the anti-Petrillo bill. Mr. Petrillo last week purposely called a strike against a Chicago radio station, asking that twice as many music librarians be employed, to force a showdown on the bill.

In a two-hour review of the legislative crisis confronting labor in Washington, Mr. Padway said that under the Lea bill Mr. Petrillo could be jailed for a variety of offenses while the broadcaster would not be prosecuted if he did the same things.

"The Senate is out to get one man, one organization and to promote the profits of one industry," he declared. "What is democracy coming to?"

Mr. Padway saved his main fire, however, for the Case strike-control bill and predicted that President Truman would veto it. He said the bill "lacerates the heart of labor" and is "the worst bill labor ever has been confronted with."

He described the bill's 60-day cooling-off period as destroying "the fabric of collective bargaining." In the case of the recording industry, he said, the disk concerns could make so many records in 60 days that they could "last indefinitely" after a strike were called.

Mr. Padway added that he did not believe the Case bill, which forbids employers to contribute to welfare funds administered exclusively by unions, would affect the Musicians' Fund, a fund collected from royalties on disks and administered exclusively by the Petrillo union.

The St. Petersburg Times published an editorial entitled "Pardon Us, But Our Bigotry's Showing," decrying the fact that the musicians had to cancel their annual outing because of local discrimination against Negro delegates.

Frey Assails Injunction Provision Of Truman's Strike Control Bill

Washington, D. C.—President John P. Frey of the AFL Metal Trades Department sent a letter to all members of the Senate condemning "Government by injunction" as provided in both House and Senate versions of President Truman's emergency strike control bill.

Though he voiced deep gratitude for the Senate's swift action in striking from the bill the section which would empower the President to draft workers into the Army if they refused to work on Government-seized properties, Mr. Frey declared he and his associates were "sorely perplexed" over Senate approval of the injunction features of the bill.

This provision would "definitely, and in a most dangerous manner," he told the Senate, "deprive civilian workers and others of the protection of Government by law and the necessary safeguards provided by the civil courts, State and Federal."

This section of Mr. Truman's so-called emergency labor bill, he warned, "is definitely a departure from government by statutory law and the substitution of government by injunction in its place; government by injunction which would substitute the opinion, inclination, political interests, prejudices or whims of a judge sitting in equity guided only by that indefinite, unreliable, and frequently conflicting quality known as 'conscience.'

"Government by injunction," he asserted, "is in every sense the application of a judge's individual opinion or inclination, as contrasted with government by law—law which controls the judge both in the determination of facts and the sentence he may inflict. He cannot impose a lesser or greater sentence than provided by law."

Complimenting the Senate on its rejection of the President's plea for power to draft workmen into the armed forces if they declined to work in Government-seized properties, Mr. Frey said:

"That part of the bill provided for compulsory labor by inducting striking workmen into the armed forces under military discipline and court martial. These workmen would be denied the protection of our civil courts or trial by jury. It was this denial of the basic civilian rights of the orderly process of government by statutory law which made this section of the bill so abhorrent to you."

Mr. Frey expressed the hope that the same high principles which led the Senate to scrap the "draft-labor" provision of the bill would lead it eventually to reject, also, the injunction section permitting employers to sue striking unions.

Upholsterers Condemn Red Agents For Activity Against Union Labor

Chicago.—Firm denunciation of Soviet Russia and Communists in America, as dangerous foes of world peace and free trade unions, was voiced unanimously by delegates to the 24th biennial convention here of the Upholsterers International Union (AFL).

The convention, largest in the 54-year history of the union, was attended by delegates representing 50,000 workers in the furniture, bedding, casket, canvas and allied industries of the United States and Canada.

The dangers of Communism to American unions and peace efforts of the United Nations was voiced in a resolution which "vigorously commended the strong stand of the State Department and President Truman against further appeasement of the endless aggressive demands of the Soviet Union" and urged that any further assistance to the USSR be conditioned on "opening of channels of information to the Russian people on the same basis such channels in this country are open to the Russian government and their agents."

The resolution expressed "the greatest affection and sympathy for the Russian people in their suffering from war and dictatorship." However, it charged the Soviet Government with being a "one-party state whose trade unions are chattels and helpless tools of the dictatorial head of state, whose people are denied all freedom of speech, press and association."

JOSEPH SHAPLEN DIES; VETERAN LABOR WRITER

New York City.—Joseph Shaplen, a veteran labor reporter for the New York Times, died of a heart attack at his home here on the night of June 4.

Mr. Shaplen had long been a familiar figure at national conventions of the American Federation of Labor and State conventions. He enjoyed the confidence of AFL leaders and the officers of many locals. His coverage of labor news, over a long period of years, was factual and clear-cut. He was an outstanding foe of Communism and Soviet Premier Stalin, despite the fact that he was a native of Russia. He served in 1939 as treasurer of the Overseas Press Club here.

Hard Coal Dispute Agreement Is Near

New York City.—Agreement between leaders of the United Mine Workers (AFL) and anthracite coal operators appeared to have been reached by negotiating bodies of both groups.

The proposed agreement, it was understood, would grant striking miners in the hard coal fields conditions identical with those accorded to bituminous miners in their recent settlement. Formal announcement of the agreement was withheld pending final conferences. Operators asked for the delay until they could consult their attorneys on the specific language of the new contract.

The major problem posed before the negotiators centered about incorporating into the new agreement the terms contained in the bituminous contract, inasmuch as conditions, particularly regarding supervisory personnel and safety regulations, vary considerably.

CAPITAL GAS LIGHT CO. GRANTS AFL UNIONS RAISE

Washington, D. C.—The Washington Gas Light Co. and employe-members of two unions have signed a new wage agreement which provides an 18-cent hourly increase in wages. Also provided is a 10-cent-an-hour premium for employes working on regular Sunday schedules.

Representative unions in the contract negotiations, concluded by a three-man arbitration panel, were Local 63, International Chemical Workers, and Local 2, Office Employes Union, both AFL.

Telegrams Deluge Truman Demanding Case Bill Veto

Union Protests Denounce Anti-Labor Legislation

Washington, D. C.—The strong resentment of workers throughout the Nation against the vicious Case Bill, approved by Congress, is clearly demonstrated in the telegrams which have poured into the White House demanding veto of the measure. Some of the telegrams follow:

William Green, AFL President:

"In your recent address to Congress, you recommended that Congress make a thorough investigation during a six-months period, at least, of the need and basis for enactment of constructive labor legislation. Notwithstanding this recommendation, the Senate, immediately following your address, approved the notorious Case Bill, which previously had been passed by the House. This Case Bill is highly objectionable to labor. If it becomes law, organizations of labor will find it difficult to live and function.

"This bill is aimed at the destruction of organized labor. Because it is so highly objectionable to labor, and because it was passed by Congress contrary to your recommendation that a thorough investigation be made before labor legislation be passed, I appeal to you to veto the Case Bill."

Daniel J. Tobin, president Teamsters Brotherhood:

"I implore you to veto the Case Bill. It is the most dangerous and far-reaching legislation ever passed by the law-making bodies of the Federal Government. It destroys the work of labor for a number of years. It sets back labor unions over forty years. In my judgment it will destroy the party that you represent, as the workers were responsible for the election of the majority party in the last four national elections. It is the worst stranglehold that was ever inflicted on labor, and labor, in my opinion, will resent such legislation so bitterly that it will be impossible to control the organized workers of the nation. I ask you in the name of justice and in the name of organized labor to veto the Case bill."

James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians:

"The Executive Board of the American Federation of Musicians, representing 180,000 members, unanimously voted to urge you to veto the Case bill. This bill, passed by Congress at a time of hysteria and without deliberation, would destroy basic and fundamental rights of American workers and wipe out laws which have shaped labor relations policies for the past 50 years. It deprives workers of the elementary righs of peaceful assembly, freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Workers of the nation will be enslaved, and involuntary servitude will become the order of the day. It is inconceivable that this legislation can be imposed upon free men in a democracy which has just shed its costly blood to preserve the principles which the Case bill maliciously destroys."

R. A. Olson, president, Minnesota State Federation of Labor:

"One hundred thousand members of American Federation of Labor in Minnesota and their families urge you to veto the infamous Case bill, as we feel it will destroy labor's gains made at great cost over a period of many years. We are depending on you.

Felix H. Knight, president, Railway Carmen:

"On behalf of 130,000 members of this union I am urging you to veto the Case bill, which is obnoxious in the extreme to the producers in this country, organized and unorganized, and would, in all probability, be responsible for more turmoil than we are having today."

John P. Burke, president-secretary, International Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers:

"In behalf of the 90,000 members of this brotherhood, I urge you to veto the Case bill. It is my firm conviction that the passage of this bill would do more harm than good. The Case bill would only retard the efforts being made by sincere and earnest men in the ranks of labor and employers to establish labor relations that will insure industrial peace. A fair-minded attitude on the part of industrial management and labor leadership, coupled with common sense, will do more to bring about peace in industry than passage of the Case bill or similar legislation."

John Acker, secretary-treasurer, Indiana State Federation of Labor:

"There are two hundred and fifty thousand members of unions in this State affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and we are undivided in our opposition to the notorious Case Bill and earnestly request you to veto this measure. We are depending on you."

Charles J. MacGowan, International President of Boilermakers:

"I respectfully but urgently appeal to you to veto the notorious and un-American Case Bill, which was conceived in passion and enacted in hate, and which is designed by its authors to politically destroy you and your administration. Your suggestion of a long-range study of the whole labor question and the enactment of calm and dispassionate long-time legislation is the only sound approach. I am speaking as the leader of one of the larger international unions, whose members produced the ships, both combat and commercial, and helped keep our railroads running during the war and who passed through the entire war period without a single work stoppage."

Joseph V. Moreschi, president International Hod Carriers:

"I urgently request that you veto the Case Bill now before you. The fundamental rights of the working citizens of this country and those that properly and lawfully represent them, should not be seriously affected because of temporary hysteria. Loyal American labor fully supported our Government in the war effort. Is this to be its reward? Serious problems should be solved by serious judgment after impartial hearing and consideration of all rights affected, including the good and welfare of our country as a whole."

Charles B. Gramling, president, Georgia Federation of Labor:

"We are apprehensive of the anti-labor legislation contained in the Case Bill now before you. No good can result to any group from this bill, and labor, the backbone of the nation's middle class, will suffer irretrievable damage. We urgently beseech you to veto it."

Matthew J. Burns, president, International Papermakers:

"Enactment into law of the notorious and highly objectionable Case Bill would regiment the workers by silencing their unions. It would destroy the economic freedom of those who toil and would endanger our whole system of industry, enterprise and government. With full appreciation of our responsibility to our nation we urge you, Mr. President, to veto the vicious vindictive labor-crippling Case Bill."

George A. Haberman, president, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor:

"Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, on behalf of two hundred and fifty thousand working men in Wisconsin, earnestly requests that you veto that vicious piece of anti-labor legislation known as the Case Bill. We of the labor movement in Wisconsin join in asking your assistance in stopping legislation of this type."

William Schoenberg, president, Cement Workers:

"The General Executive Board of United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers International Union, representing 30,000 members, strongly urges you to emulate your predecessor when faced with infamous anti-labor bills by vetoing the Case Bill, which would bring chaos to the land. We count on you to veto this bill.

J. H. Richard, president, Beet Sugar Refinery Local 21407, Mitchell, Neb.:

"I honestly urge you to veto the objectionable Case Bill as a friend of labor. I sincerely hope you will see us through these trying times."

Homer Faudree, secretary, Springfield, Ohio, Trades and Labor Assembly:

"We respectfully request that you veto the Case Bill. We consider this legislation as unwarranted and definitely detrimental to the best interests of all men and women of labor."

E. L. King, president, Norfolk Central Labor Union:

"The Norfolw Central Labor Union calls upon you to veto the notorious, highly objectionable Case Bill. It will be extremely difficult for labor unions to live and function if the Case Bill becomes law and the progress of labor would be unjustly retarded."

Michael Laux, president, Boulder Canyon Metal Trades:

"The Boulder Canyon Project Metal Trades Council, on behalf of its membership that is toiling on the Boulder Canyon Project and the basic magnesium project appeals to you to veto the Case Bill in the interest of our nation's workers."

Rail Telegraphers Elect G. E. Leighty

Columbus, Ohio.—George E. Leighty of the Milwaukee Road, first vice president of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers (AFL), was elevated to the presidency following refusal of President V. O. Gardner to run for re-election. Gardner, who had piloted the organization since 1939, said he preferred to step down so that younger hands could "handle the reins."

The new president, elected at what was regarded by veteran members of the order as one of the most harmonious they had seen, is a native of Phillips, Wis., and began his rail career at the age of 15 as an agent-operator on the Milwaukee Road at La Plant, S. D., in 1912.

President Undecided But Is Studying Analysis of Bill

Washington, D. C.—Flooded with demands from every section of the Nation that he veto the Case "nail-labor-now" Bill, President Truman told newsmen he was undecided on the measure and was still studying its provisions.

Rarely has the White House experienced such a deluge of telegrams and letters against a single legislative proposal. The protests stemmed from persons in all walks of life and represented the rising temper of rank-and-file workers and professional people, against the move to impose slave-labor measures on American labor.

Reflecting the widespread resentment against the Case Bill, more than 100 members of the House signed a petition appealing to the President to veto the measure.

This, in itself, carried a strong implication that the House, despite its approval of the bill and its overwhelming endorsement of Mr. Truman's proposed emergency "draft-labor" plan, may sustain the veto by the required one-third of its members.

Moreover, a survey by AFL legislative advisors showed conclusively that more than a third of the Senate would uphold the veto.

Meanwhile, House leaders appeared reluctant to act upon the President's so-called "emergency labor bill," which the Senate stripped of some of its major provisions, including the section permitting the President to draft into the armed forces American workmen who refused to work in a Government-seized plant.

The strategy of House leaders, it was reported, would be to refer the legislation to the House Rules Committee, where it could be quickly pigeon-holed until President Truman acts upon the Case Bill. The President has three courses from which to choose. He can sign the Case Bill, he can veto it, or he can permit it to become law without his signature. The President has until June 12 to reach a decision.

Mr. Truman, at his press conference, was asked if he still desired the "draft-strikers" power he sought in his special message to a joint session of Congress. He replied that he liked the bill aprpoved by the House, which was passed May 25 within two hours after he spoke, and which carried this provision.

Should the "emergency labor bill" be sidetracked into the House Rules Committee that group can recommend:

1.—That a compromise be sought by House and Senate conferees.

2.—That the House accept the Senate version and send the measure to the White House, minus much of the power sought by the President.

The full House then would vote on the proposal of the Rules Committee.

Meanwhile, the President was reported to be receiving conflicting advice on what action he should take on the Case Bill.

Rep. Sabath (D.) Illinois, chairman of the House Rules Committee and a key figure in eventual action on the emergency labor bill, visited Mr. Truman and, as he was leaving the White House, told reporters he asked the President to veto the Case Bill.

Cross Section—AFL

No. 9—TEAMSTERS

Featuring three typical American truck drivers, all members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers, interviewed from Chicago by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator.

Chicago.—The trials and tribulations of American truck drivers, hauling the Nation's most vital necessities back and forth across the country, were graphically recited by three veteran drivers interviewed by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator, over a Nation-wide radio hook-up.

The men interviewed were James Claybaugh, Chauncey Decker and Kenneth Jensen. All three expressed deep gratitude for the benefits they derived from their union membership. One said that before he joined the union he was being paid $20 a week, but today receives wages varying between $60 and $100. He added, also, that because of his union membership he has protection against unnecessary lay-offs and other uncertainties faced by non-union drivers. All three commented upon the cooperation between the union and the truck operators and the stability which they felt their union association provided.

The drivers explained in some detail the rules of the road, the manner in which they pass on signals to cars trailing behind when they are approaching dangerous intersections or curves, the blinking of tail lights, the weaving of a trailer and similar matters. For these courtesies, they said, motorists flash their lights on and off twice to express their appreciation.